

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 07643 211001Z

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TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CG

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF ALLEGED JUNE CONSPIRATORS

REF: KINSHASA 7600

SUMMARY:

1. OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN NEWSAGENCY AZAP PRINTED EDITORIAL AUGUST 20 ON FORTHCOMING "TRIAL OF THE YEAR" RELATING TO COUP MONTE ET MANQUE, WHICH APPEARS TO TRY TO AVOID CAUSING ANY FURTHER DAMAGE IN US/ZAIRE RELATIONS. EDITORIAL REVEALS DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AS ONE OF THE PLOTTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF AZAP EDITORIAL OF AUGUST 20 RELATING TO TRIAL OF 40 INDIVIDUALS IMPLICATED IN JUNE COUP ATTEMPT.

3. AFTER NOTING DIPLOMATIC IMPLICATIONS WHICH RESULTED IN DECISION TO HOLD TRIAL BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT ONE OF CHARACTERISTICS OF GOZ FOREIGN POLICY IS TO LIVE IN PERFECT HARMONY WITH ALL COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PERSUASION. TO AUTHORIZE A PUBLIC TRIAL WOULD NOT ONLY "INFRINGE UPON THIS POLICY BUT ALSO CULTIVATE HATRED OF ZAIRIAN PEOPLE AGAINST A CERTAIN POWERFUL PARTNER WHICH IS POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY INSATIABLE." SINCE CONFIRMATION BY MOBUTU OF COUP MONTE ET MANQUE, EDITORIAL POINTS OUT "NO OFFICIAL ORGAN HAS ACCUSED BY

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 07643 211001Z

NAME ANY COUNTRY OF WANTING TO ARM THE ZAIRIAN HAND." AFFIRMING

THAT ANALYSES AND COMPARISONS HAVE SOMETIME LED NATIONAL AND FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS TO TAKE AIM AT A CERTAIN CAPITAL, EDITORIAL MAINTAINS "WE WILL NOT FOLLOW THEM". AT SAME TIME, IT SUPPORTS VIEW THAT ROLE OF PRESS IS TO TAKE POSITIONS BUT POINTING OUT THAT THESE POSITIONS DO NOT ENGAGE THE STATE. TRIAL IS DIRECTED SOLELY AGAINST CERTAIN LOST SONS FOOLED BY THE FOREIGNER AND NOT AGAINST THE INSTIGATING STATE WHICH WILL HAVE TO WAIT A LONG TIME BEFORE ITS DREAMS BECOME REALITY.

4. NOTING AN IMPORTANT LINK BETWEEN CIVILIAN AND MILITARY CHAIN OF PLOTTERS, EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT INVESTIGATION HAS PROVED LEADER WAS NONE OTHER THAN "BRUTUS", A YOUNG OFFICER WHO ENJOYED FULL CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT, "COLONEL OMBA." ANOTHER SUPERIOR OFFICER WHO WAS NOT PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED IN PLOT BUT WHO IS COMPLETELY INVOLVED IS GENERAL NGAYI, FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE WHO TOOK PART IN "BLOOD DINNER" WITH OTHER CONSPIRATORS, WITHOUT WARNING HIS CHIEF AS HE HAD DONE BEFORE WHEN HE HAD TAKEN PART IN RECEPTION FOR GENERAL FALLU. WHEN NGAYI WAS ARRESTED HE WAS UNABLE TO RESPOND TO THIS EQUIVOCAL ATTITUDE, THUS CONFIRMING HIS BETRAYAL.

5. EDITORIAL FURTHER NOTES THAT GENERAL NGAYI AND COLONEL OMBA HAVE CHOSEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTION, LAWYERS FROM THEIR REGION, AS DID GENERALS KATSHUVA, OTSHUDI, AND FALLU. THIS ATTITUDE IS CONTRARY TO SPIRIT OF MPR WHICH DOES NOT ADMIT TO TRIBALISM, CLANISM OR REGIONALISM. CONSEQUENTLY ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS APPOINTED GOOD LAWYERS, CHOSEN AT RANDOM, FOR THE DEFENDORS. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT INDICTMENTS COULD HAVE UNEXPECTED AND SPECTACULAR REPERCUSSIONS, AND HINTS AT POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING TO PUBLIC FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE TRIAL.

6. COMMENT:
EDITORIAL APPEARS TO BE BACKHANDED ATTEMPT TO AVOID CAUSING FURTHER DAMAGE TO U.S./ZAIRE RELATIONS WHILE AT SAME TIME JUSTIFYING ORIGINAL CHARGES OF FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT. HINT OF POSSIBLE REPORTING ON PROGRESS OF TRIAL MAY CLARIFY GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS ON HANDLING OF "FOREIGN POWER" ASPECTS, IF ANY, OF CASE.
WALKER

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